A one-year follow-up of the office practice graduates of Laconia High School. McCrillis, E. 1948

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Boston University
School of Education

Thesis

A ONE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE OFFICE PRACTICE GRADUATES OF LACONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by

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B. S. Simmons College, 1933

in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree of

Master of Education 1948

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Gift of E. McCvillis School of Education June 24, 1948 29555

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A ONE-YEAR FOLLOW-UP OF THE OFFICE PRACTICE GRADUATES OF LACONIA HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction

During the years since business education became a part of secondary education, many changes have taken place in business and society. Since the early 1900's there has been a tremendous increase in business occupations, resulting in a shortage of workers in some occupations even during the depression years and an oversupply of workers in other occupations even during World War II. This increase in business fields resulted also in the choice of certain occupations by students unfitted for them and the ignoring of the same occupations by students well adapted to succeed in them. An increasing number of students are completing their education. There has been a great increase in the number of students electing business subjects. During the war years women held jobs formerly held by men, and this created a larger field for women employees. Rapid progress in various occupations means changes in the business field and a consequent change in the aims of business education to prepare students to meet them.

Changing social conditions after the first World War

¹R. G. Walters, "Three Is Company," Journal of Business Education, XXI (May, 1946), p. 7.

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meant changing school curriculums. At first these changes affected the academic curriculum only; but, as time passed, the business curriculum was affected. Twenty-five years ago there was little doubt in the minds of interested persons as to the aims of business education in high school. A business course was set up so that students could be prepared to earn their living as office workers. The aims were primarily vocational. This meant, in most schools, a business course in which shorthand, typewriting, business arithmetic, and bookkeeping were taught.

In recent years, also, business men have been taking a greater interest in the education of American young people for jobs in business and industry, jobs which must be filled efficiently if production and distribution in the country are to meet demands of consumers and provide employment for them. Business education was severely criticized during the war years also because of its failure to deliver a completely satisfactory, trained intelligent personnel to the Army, the Navy, the civil service, business, and industry. In the final analysis the educational value of what is taught in the classroom is really determined by how well students can use in business situations the knowledges,

¹H. G. Enterlines, "Factors Involved in Attaining Higher Standards of Achievement in Business Subjects," The American Business Education Yearbook, II (1945), pp. 26-57.

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skills, and powers that are learned in the classroom. 1
Only by a constant re-examination of present practices and techniques and a willingness to revise and improve these techniques can business education be sure that it is meeting changing business conditions and the requirements of business men.

There is still much uncertainty as to what high school business education should accomplish; but there is, and has been for some time, a growing realization among educators that business courses must provide for other office and store occupations than those of stenographer and bookkeeper.2 With this in mind the school should make it possible for pupils to get sufficient business information and a degree of proficiency in the use of one or more business skills to enable them to prepare for beginning positions in stores or offices. It should also give the pupils sufficient information and skills to qualify them for beginning positions in stores or offices and for the giving of adequate service when such positions are obtained. Too often, however, in the past the school has taught without knowing whether it has been effective in preparing its pupils for these beginning positions. And much has been written about the meeting

¹Paul S. Lomax, Commercial Teaching Problems, p. 6.

²R. G. Walters, <u>The Business Curriculum</u>, Monograph 55 (Mar. 1942), Cincinnati: South-Western Publishing Company, pp. 5-8.

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of standards of business and the changing of curriculums to meet these standards. But all too often standards and changes have been based on subjective opinion alone. Only by constant objective research can the school evaluate its objectives and test its courses to see whether the subjects it is teaching its pupils are meeting business standards. One method of determining suitable objectives, as well as of determining specifically the types of positions available and of ascertaining whether the curriculum is meeting the needs of business, is a survey of local business requirements and of the adequacy with which they are being met.

¹B. R. Haynes and C. W. Humphrey, <u>Research Applied to</u> <u>Business Education</u>, p. 1.

²M. A. Hickey and Robert Finch, "Testing the Objectives of Vocational Education," <u>The American Business Education</u> <u>Yearbook</u>, III (1946), p. 61.

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CHAPTER I

The Purpose of This Study

The purpose of this study is to try to ascertain whether the business course of Laconia, New Hampshire, High School has been meeting, and is continuing to meet, the needs of business for beginning workers and whether the pupils are using the skills and abilities the school tried to develop. Through the use of questionnaires and of interviews with both the graduates from the office practice course for the five years, 1942-1946, and the business men by whom these graduates are employed, the necessary information for this study was obtained. To make a complete evaluation of the business course, it would have been necessary to survey not only business courses taken by the graduates through their four high school years but also any other subjects taken in high school. This is in itself a topic that could well be undertaken for a complete survey of curriculum requirements. For the purpose of this study, however, it was felt that a survey of the graduates and business men mentioned would be adequate. The graduates of the office practice curriculum at Laconia have had at least three years of business subjects. In the first two years the emphasis in the student's training is on shorthand, typewriting, and

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erotal la las serienceltasup la sen ald dylorid .goluval et tids study and obtained. To make a complete evaluation of taken in high school. This is in itself the this toolet and hereby solite and to assembly only . . stampers of blue borelines of business subjects. In the Circle two jewes the conjusts in the student's training is on significant translate out mi

fundamental bookkeeping skills. In the third year in the office practice course a transition is made between the student who has mastered certain skills and the efficient office worker. This course is given in the last year of high school where it can help to bridge the gap between school and business life. In its content it attempts to bring together and add to business procedures only touched upon in preceding years.

The plan of obtaining data for the investigation included the sending of a check-type questionnaire (page 7), accompanied by a letter (page 8) explaining its purpose, to 133 pupils who studied business subjects at least three years and were graduated from school during the years 1942-1946. A second questionnaire (page 9) and a letter (page 10) were sent to out-of-town business men employing the graduates and to local business men employing only one clerical or stenographic worker. An interview was sought by the writer with all other employers. With the letter asking for an interview a self-addressed government card was enclosed.

lappendix, p. 51.

²Ibid., p. 52.

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Form B -- Letter Sent to Graduates

Laconia High School Laconia, New Hampshire June 5, 1947

Dear

This questionnaire is being used in an attempt to find out some things about your experiences since you left school and the kind of work you do. We are planning to use this information in trying to improve what we teach in school and to determine the effectiveness and value of your business training while in school in terms of your work experience.

The enclosed blank calls for some facts about what you have been doing since you graduated. Your answers will be of great help to us in our work. You may be sure that the information you give will be treated confidentially and that it will be used only for group reports without reference to individuals.

Your assistance in this work will be of great help and will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Ermestine McCrillis

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Laconia Eigh School Laconia, Cov Hampshire June 5, 1047

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This questionnaire is being used in an attempt to find out some things about your amperiences since you left school and the ampring to use kind of work you do. He are clausing to use this information in trying to improve what we teach in school and to determine the effect throness and value of your business training while in school in terms of your work orders.

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Yours sincerely,

Ermostine McCrillia

8½ by 14 paper)
(Any information will be strictly confidential and will be used in generalized form only.) Name or Firm Nature of business Name of employee How long has (she,he) been employed by you? Yrs. Mos. Wks. What duties does (he,she) perform? (Please check) Receiving callers Stenographic Answering telephone
Bookkeeping activities Typing Filing Machine Operation Kind (Please state type of machine) Evaluate your worker according to the following scale: Required Dismissal Superior Good Fair Poor Ability to follow directions Ability to accomplish work rapidly and accurately ----Amount of work accomplished Accuracy in typing "spelling" " punctuation a simple mathematics Ability to learn new work
" " type mailable letters
" " acceptable carbons " make good corrections Courtesy in meeting public Poise and clarity on telephone Neatness in dress and person _____ bility to take criticism and profit from it Ability to work without supervision Interest in work and the busi-.. bility to get along with fellow workers Poise and self-control at work Attendance record Please feel free to make any additional comments you wish. In what way, if any, do you think the school could have made (him, her) a more valuable employee?

Form C (mimeographed on 9

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Laconia High School Laconia, New Hampshire September 18, 1947

In order to find out whether Laconia High School in its business classes is training beginning workers in the skills and abilities you want, I am making a 5-year survey of the pupils who were graduated in the years 1942 through June, 1946. In your employ you have one or more of these graduates. To ascertain whether we are really meeting the needs of business, I believe it is necessary to get a report on each individual.

If you would be willing to fill in the enclosed questionnaire and add any comments you wish, your opinions would be of great help in ascertaining what changes, if any, need to be made in our business curriculum.

Any information you give me will be strictly confidential and will be used only in a generalized report.

Yours truly,

Ernestine McCrillis

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CHAPTER II

Background of the Study

In order to set the problem in its proper background, it is necessary to sketch in briefly the kind of community Laconia is, its occupational needs, the offering in the high school in business subjects, and the objectives aimed at in the business curriculum.

Laconia, New Hampshire, an industrial and manufacturing town with an outlying rural section, is a trade center for an area with a population exceeding 50,000. The population of the city proper in 1940 (United States Census) was 13,484. Since 1940 this figure has changed to some extent—the estimated population now being 17,000.

According to the 1940 Census 476 males, or 3.5 per cent, and 387 females, or 2.8 per cent, of the population were engaged in clerical, sales, and kindred occupations. Again because of the abnormal conditions during the five years of the survey these figures, as with the population figures, would now be somewhat larger. Individuals and

lommunity Statistical Abstract, Prepared for Industrial Development Committee of the New England Council by Bureau of Business Research, Boston University College of Business Administration, 1939.

²United States Census, 1940., p. 796.

³Laconia (New Hampshire) Directory, 1946., p. 16.

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industries employing high school graduates include lawyers, insurance companies, real estate offices, banks, public utilities, retail stores, farmers' exchanges, woolen mills, a clock factory, a ski factory, and a large machine manufacturing concern.

Laconia High School, a four-year high school, had an average school enrollment in the years covered by the survey of 750 and a teaching staff of 50. At that time in the Program of Studies the following curricula were offered: College Preparatory, Business, Home Economics, Mechanic Arts, and General. In all areas sixteen units were required for graduation; all pupils selected a minimum of four units of work each year, one of these in English. As far as the investigation of the problem is concerned, a detailed description of the Business Course only will be given.

In attempting to meet the demands of business and the requirements of the boys and girls who will get jobs in the community, the following objectives were set up for business education:

- 1. To provide a general business education for both boys and girls;
- To provide a vocational business education for those who will profit most from specific training such as is received in stenography, office practice, and vocational bookkeeping;

lappendix, pp. 53-54.

infunction employing High school graduates include lawyers, include of the control of the contro

Leading High Holmol, a four-year high school, had on eversor school enrollment in the years covered by the quity very of 750 and a teadming staff of 50. At that time in the Trourse of Studies the sollment oursicular were offered:

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In theopting to meet the delemie of business and the requirements of the boys and wirls who will get jobs in the committee, the following objectives were set no for business education:

l. To provide a reberal business saudation for book boys end sirls;

^{2.} To recytle a vocational business education for these specific ventures the specific ventures as is required in stenoroomly, affice arevice, and vocational booksesting.

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3. To develop citizens who are intelligent concerning business enterprises, obligations, and rights.

The business curriculum as such begins in the 10th grade; although in the 9th grade pupils have an opportunity to elect junior business training, which includes units of bookkeeping, business forms, filing, mailing procedures, letter writing, and telephoning.

The following tables and explanatory paragraphs indicate the business subjects which a pupil could elect throughout his last three years:

Grade X Stenography I (shorthand and typing)	Periods per week 10	Credit
or (Typewriting I (Advertising and Salesmanship Consumer Education Economic Geography Bookkeeping I	55555	
Grade XI		
Stenography II Bookkeeping II Clerical Practice I (1944-45-46) Filing (1942-43) Typewriting II	10 5 10 5 5	1 1 1 1 1 1 2
Grade XII		
Secretarial Practice Clerical Practice II	10 10	1

lappendix, p. 53.

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Selection of Students for Stenography

Pupils who maintained a C average in English during Grade X and who showed an aptitude for and an interest in stenographic work and met the minimum standards of Stenography I were urged to continue with Stenography II.

The minimum standard for Stenography I, set up by the New Hampshire State Department of Education, 1 required that a pupil, at the end of one full year of work, should be capable of taking dictation of simple unfamiliar material composed of a series of business letters at sixty words a minute for fifteen minutes and of transcribing accurately in mailable form, at a rate of ten to fifteen words a minute. In Typewriting I,2 the minimum net speed was 25 words a minute on a 10-minute correction and erasing test. A pupil should also be able to write from printed letter material, 3 medium-length, mailable letters in 30 minutes.

Selection of Students for Clerical Practice I

Pupils who failed to show an aptitude for and an interest in shorthand but who met the minimum standards of Typewriting I and showed an interest in it were encouraged to elect Clerical Practice I.

Program of Studies, State Board of Education, Concord, New Hampshire, 1942, pp. 39-66.

²Ibid., p. 39.

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Allegater of Stuffer, date Perro of Rimartion,

This course included the following units:

- I. Review of fundamentals
- II. Skills for occupational use
 - 1. Set-up of letters of any accepted style in mailable form
 - 2. Folding and inserting of letters in envelopes
 - 3. Arrangement of a letter of two pages or more 4. Typing of post cards

 - 5. Copying from rough draft6. Arranging manuscript

 - 7. Arranging and typing of outlines
 - 8. Typing of multiple carbon copies 9. Arranging and typing of tabulations
 - 10. Practice in erasing and correcting typing errors
- III. Knowledge of how various business forms are made out
 - 1. Checks
 - 2. Receipts
 - 3. Invoices
 - 4. Statements
 - 5. Deposit slips
 - 6. Bills of lading
- IV. Knowledge of filing rules and filing procedures
 - 1. Cards
 - 2. Letters
- V. Direct dictation to typist

Selection of Students for Secretarial Practice and Clerical Practice II

Those pupils who continued to maintain a C average in English and to show an aptitude for and an interest in shorthand and met the standards of Stenography II1 were

Program of Studies, op. cit., p. 55.

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encouraged to elect Secretarial Practice. Pupils who did not meet the minimum requirements of Stenography II but who did attain the minimum standard for Typewriting II1 could elect Clerical Practice II. Pupils who had taken Clerical Practice I, and made a passing grade, could also take a second year of the subject. In 1944-45 with a change in administration there followed a change in the policy of guiding into another field pupils who were not fitted for the business curriculum. Any pupil, regardless, of his aptitudes and interests, could elect business subjects. Previous to this time, also, business pupils, capable of doing the work, were encouraged and advised to elect College Preparatory English rather than Civic English, which pupils in the business area normally elected. With the administration change a schedule rearrangement produced a conflict which prevented these pupils from taking College Preparatory English and Secretarial Practice simultaneously. If there were a possibility of post-secondary education for a pupil, he was advised to take College Preparatory English. The results of this change of policy and scheduling, from the employer's point of view, will be noted later.

It will be noted in the following outline that the same units are included in both Secretarial Practice and

¹ Program of Studies, op. cit. p. 48.

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Clerical Practice II. Inasmuch as there are skills, knowledges, attitudes, interests, and ideals which are common to both groups, the content of the courses is identical with the exception of dictation and transcription in Secretarial Practice.

Units included in Secretarial Practice and Clerical Practice II:

- I. Typing techniques
 - 1. Arrangement of typed matter
 - 2. Business reports and forms
 - 3. Rough drafts and proofreading
 - 4. Statistical reports
- II. Dictation and transcription
- III. Procedures in handling mail
 - IV. Filing and alphabetizing
 - V. Personal characteristics, attitudes, and work habits
- VI. Organization of work and working materials
- VII. Ordering and storing supplies
- VIII. Techniques in handling calls and callers
 - IX. Business ethics
 - X. Obtaining a Position
 - XI. Conduct on the Job
- XII. Use of dictionary and other reference books
- XIII. Use of office machines
 - 1. Duplicating
 - 2. Transcribing
 - 3. Adding and Calculating 4. Posting

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III. Use of atablonary and other refugerde books

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Added to the general objectives of the business curriculum, there was the added objective in these terminal courses to help pupils gain maximum command of the knowledge and skills they would need as beginning workers when they obtained employment.

Machines in the Business Department

With the exception of ten typewriters during the last two and a half years, the following machines were available to the students during 1942-1946. In the spring of 1943 ten typewriters were turned over to the government when an appeal was made to the schools of the nation for machines.

50 typewriters

1 Dictaphone transcriber

1 hand-operated mimeograph

1 hand-operated liquid duplicating machine

1 ten-key adding-listing machine

1 manually-operated key-driven calculator*

^{*}Available to office practice classes only when school office is not using it

Added to the granted objectives of the hosiness corriers on, there was the adjective in these terrings courses to belo wells gold meximus common of the
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CHAPTER III

Procedure Followed in Making the Study

In order to gather the necessary information to evaluate the business curriculum at Laconia High School, it was decided, as has been stated previously, to send out a check-type questionnaire (sample, page 7) accompanied by an explanatory letter (sample, page 8) to those pupils who had had at least three years' work in business subjects and were graduated from Laconia High School. A second questionnaire (sample, page 9) would be sent to the business men who were employing these graduates, as indicated by the returns of the first questionnaire.

After a study of several questionnaires of a similar nature, a list of common office activities performed by beginning workers was prepared. This questionnaire was submitted to three business teachers who were co-workers of the writer. These teachers had had practical business experience and twelve or more years' teaching experience. It was also submitted to an experienced personnel manager of a firm employing over 300 clerical workers. Finally it was discussed with twelve office practice seniors who had had summer and part-time jobs of a clerical nature. The final questionnaire incorporated suggestions and

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nature, a list of drawn office sutly bies performed by beginning variants was presented. This questionmake was substituted to three besiness trackers who were co-variess of the writer. Insections trackers who were co-variess of the writer. Insections that had reaching trackers of the writer and twelve or more present bescaling the riones. It was also substituted to an experienced porsonnel remains of a first substitute of the trackers of section substituted to the trackers of sections and only the trackers of sections and only the trackers of sections and only the trackers of a clarical nature.

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revisions made by the persons to whom the preliminary form was submitted. The questionnaire to be sent to the business men was submitted to the same three business teachers and personnel manager and to two other business men who employed three and five clerical workers each. The questionnaire and letter were sent to individuals or firms where the graduates were employed.

A list of the business graduates was compiled from office records and from records kept by the writer who had assumed certain placement duties in lieu of other employment facilities in the school. In spite of a constant revision of the writer's card file, the addresses of some graduates were not up to date. The list was submitted to members of the two upper classes in the high school through the English classes, and corrections were made by members acquainted with the graduates.

To enlist their cooperation and in the hope that they in their turn would respond to a similar follow-up in the future, the senior office practice classes of 1946-1947 were told of the survey and what the writer hoped to accomplish by it. Twelve members of the secretarial practice class helped in preparing the material to be sent out. One member set up the copy for the questionnaires, cut stencils, and ran the necessary copies. Two others addressed envelopes. Another pupil duplicated return envelopes. Still another

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was admitted. The events omnains to be sent to the bustness not were admitted to the same three business tendmens
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set up and cut the stencil for a letter to accompany the questionnaire, explaining its purpose. Other members prepared the letters for delivery or mailing. A large percentage of the questionnaires was delivered by members of the senior office practice classes who knew or lived near the graduates. The questionnaires were also returned by the seniors, although in some instances the graduates preferred to mail them directly to the writer. It was felt that this method of delivering would serve a two-fold purpose—a greater number of returns would be brought in through the personal contact and the seniors would be given experience in contacting and meeting office workers.

This questionnaire was sent to 133 boys and girls who were graduated from the business curriculum during the years 1942-1946. Within three weeks 73, or 55.7 per cent, had been returned. A follow-up was made by means of a card (page 22) or a second call by the senior who delivered the questionnaire. As a result of this follow-up, 30 more, or 22.9 per cent, were returned, making a total of 103, or 78.6 per cent. During the next four weeks 8, or 6.1 per cent, more were returned. In a final effort another letter (page 23), a stamped return envelope, and a second copy of the questionnaire were sent to the remaining 20. Nine, or 6.9 per cent, replied to this letter. To sum

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Sample of Card Follow-up

A short time ago I sent you a questionnaire about certain details of the work you are doing. If you feel that it is not possible for you to fill in the time you spend on certain activities, you could help a great deal if you would just check the activities you do and send the sheet back to me.

(Signed)	 	

Laconia High School Laconia, New Hampshire July 10, 1948

Dear

You have probably overlooked my request for information on the questionnaire I sent you, or possibly you found it difficult at the time to reply. You remember that I am concerned with trying to find out how we can help both present and future pupils of Laconia High School receive adequate training and preparation for jobs.

You may be sure that what you tell me will be treated in strict confidence and be used in generalized form only.

I am sure you will want to contribute your share towards this survey which is trying to help Laconia High School students. I am enclosing another questionnaire in case you have mislaid the previous one.

May I count on your cooperation?

Sincerely,

Enc.

Payon W . C3

Leconia High School Leconia, Few Hampshire July 10, 1948

Dear

You have probably everlooked my request for information on the questionnaire I sent you, or possibly you found it difficult at the time to reply. You redember that I am concerned with trying to find out now we can help both present and future pupils of Laconia High School receive adequate training and preparation for jobs.

Now may be sure that what you tell me will be treated in sential confidence and be used in generalized form or by

I am sure you will want to contribute your share towards this survey which is trying to help baconis high School students. I am emelouting another questionnaire in case you have missisful the previous one.

May I count on your cooperation?

Sincerely,

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up, 120, or 91.6 per cent completed questionnaires were returned from which statistics and necessary information could be obtained for working out the problem being investigated.

TABLE I

a. Questionnaires Sent and Returns Received

Number Graduating from the Business Curriculum (1942-1946)
Number of Questionnaires Sent to Graduates
Number of Questionnaires Returned
No. Using Business Training
Number Not Using Business Training
133 130 106 14

b. Distribution of Returns Received

First	Mailing	Second	Mailing	Third	Mailing	To	tal
No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Pe r Cent	No.	Per Cent
73	55.7	38	29.0	9	6.9	120	91.6

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Results of Replies Received from Graduates

An investigation of the 120 completed questionnaires revealed that 14, or 12 per cent, had not entered occupations where their business training had been a particularly predominating factor, as far as any information could be obtained from their blanks. All 14 checked the business subjects taken in high school; but, with one exception, none apparently saw any connection between his business training and his present occupation. The exception was a housewife who said her training in bookkeeping helped her in budgetting and keeping accounts and that she felt she could make use of her business education if she ever had to go to work. An examination of the occupations entered will reveal that business subjects could be contributing factors in succeeding in those occupations; but as the graduates evidently could not, or did not, recognize this, no conclusions can be drawn as to the value of their business training.

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TABLE II

Occupations of the 14 Graduates Entering Occupations Other Than Clerical or Stenographic

Activity	Number Employed
Store Clerk Factory Worker Telephone Operator Housewife Housework	1 4 4 4 1

Activities Performed by Graduates

Inasmuch as one of the purposes of the study is to try to ascertain whether the skills and abilities being taught are used by the graduates on their jobs, an examination of the replies received was made of the kinds of office activities performed and whether the activity was a major or minor one in a day's work. If the activity is one that is performed regularly (daily), it has been considered a major one; if performed occasionally (once a week or monthly, as the making out of bills and statements), then the activity has been considered a minor one. Nineteen of the 120, or 15.8 per cent, checked the activity as being performed; but either said they could not estimate the time involved or ignored that part of the blank.

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Activities Performed by Granuater

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being neriorant; but either sold they could not activity as

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Table III shows the dictation and transcription results obtained from the questionnaires.

TABLE III

Dictation and Transcription Activities

		mber orming	Activity Major Minor			
Activity	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Dictation Transcription	40	37.7	31	77.5	7	17.5
from short- hand notes	40	37.7	30	75.0	7	17.5
from records	8	.075	6	75.0	3	37.5

As has been noted previously a pupil taking the business curriculum may elect Stenography I and II and Secretarial Practice in his 10th, 11th, and 12th years respectively. The length of time devoted to shorthand instruction has long been a debatable issue among secondary school educators, many questioning the excessive length of time spent in relation to the number who will use the training on their jobs. The results of this survey seem to raise the same question. Table III would indicate that of the pupils surveyed a small percentage, 37.7, have ever used a skill on the development of which they spent two full years and part of a third.

lEstelle L. Popham, "Courses of Study in Shorthand,"
The American Business Education Yearbook, IV (1947), p. 280.

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[&]quot; Printerle I. Person. "Journal to Indianal, " of Testing IV (E.M.Y), o. 20.

Of the 31 who indicated dictation and transcription were major activities in their positions, 9 had additional training in business subjects: 3 taking refresher courses in shorthand in government classes in Washington during the War; 6 going to business schools from 3 to 11 months. Five of the 31 are not working in the locality surveyed: 2 are working in Washington; 1, in Providence, Rhode Island; 1, in Worcester, Massachusetts; 1, in Plymouth, New Hampshire. The conclusion, drawn from this part of the survey, seems to be that the time spent in the development of the skill is disproportionate to the demand for it in the community.

Machine Activities

In the questionnaire where there was an opportunity to list other machines used, there was a wide scattering of specialized machines. Such a small percentage of students would need a working knowledge of these machines that time spent in developing skill would not be justified.

lAppendix, p. 55.

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Aspendence p. 55.

TABLE IV
Machine Operation

Machine		umber Act orming Major Per No. Per			vity Mi No.	nor Per
		Cent		Cent		Cent
Typewriter Mimeograph Duplicator Calculator Adding Billing Bookkeeping Addressing	70 6 13 17 47 11 0	66.0 .056 .122 .16 .44 .103	50 36 12 31 2	71.4 5 46.0 70.5 65.9 18.1	1 1 3 1 8 1	1.4 1.6 23.0 5.0 19.0 9.0

It is evident from Table IV that the typewriter is the machine used to the greatest extent. In Table V the kinds of typing done by the graduates is tabulated to help ascertain what typing activities should be given major attention in the courses where typing is taught.

TABLE V
Kinds of Typewriting Performed

Kinds of Typewriting	Number Performing No. Per Cent		Ma No.	Acti ajor Per Cent	vity Minor No. Per Cent		
Letters Business Reports Rough Draft Envelopes Cards Bills Statements	52 33 18 31 31 24	.742 .471 .257 .542 .442 .40	27 20 15 20 20 19	51.9 60.6 83.3 65.7 64.5 67.8 4.1	2413254	3.8 12.1 5.5 7.1 6.4 17.8 58.3	

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The returns tabulated here would indicate that emphasis should be given to the following typing activities in the order listed:

- 1. Letters
- 2. Envelopes
- 3. Business reports
- 4. Cards
- 5. Bills
- 6. Rough draft
- 7. Statements

Under the heading "other kinds of typing" on the questionnaire, a great many activities were mentioned in more or less detail. These were performed by such a small percentage of the graduates and were, in many cases, of such a specialized nature that training in them would not be justified for the classes.

Although the operation of an adding machine was a major activity for 44 per cent of those replying, none of them indicated, in the place provided for it, that further training in the use of the adding machine would have been helpful.

Four of the 17 who use the calculator in their work indicated that more practice in using it would have been desirable for them.

¹Appendix, p. 56.

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TABLE VI
Other Activities Performed

Activity	Number Performing No. Per Cent					,
Filing	62	. 58	53	.50	9	.08
System: Alphabetic Numeric Subject Geographic Did not specify Naval	30 16 1 1 20 1					
Answering telephone	60	.566	51	.48	9	.08
Receiving callers	37	•349	31	.29	6	• 56

Over half of the graduates are concerned with filing procedures and for half of them it is an activity they perform every day. Likewise, answering the telephone is an important activity for over half of them.

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Over half of the graduates are apaceum of th filling procedures and for that it is an acid vity they are necessarily the third telephone is not innorthal activity for over half of the.

Additional Subjects Graduates Wish They Had Taken in High School

It was felt that the answers to the question "What additional business subjects do you wish you had taken, or could have taken, in high school?" would help in evaluating the present offering and in ascertaining whether it might be advisable to add or drop certain subjects.

Fourteen wrote "none" after the question, and 27 left it blank. Table VII on the following page shows the subjects listed by those who did answer the question. It will be evident from the table that no definite conclusions or recommendations can be made from such a small number of scattered results. Apparently individuals discovered a lack in their training that could have been overcome for them by special emphasis in certain phases. There was nothing to indicate from the returns, however, that the majority of graduates felt the same lack.

According to the returns in Table III (page 27) only forty of 106 graduates used shorthand and transcribed in their jobs. Yet according to Table VII 13 more wished they had taken stenography, while another 4 wished they could have gone on with it. It would be an interesting and worthwhile study to find out why these people felt that way--whether there were opportunities to use

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shorthand that they were unable to take because of lack of knowledge and whether there were more demands for stenographers than the questionnaires or interviews revealed.

TABLE VII

Additional Subjects Graduates Wish They Had Taken in High School

Business

	1	2	3
Bookkeeping	4	3	
Stenography	4	13	
Business machines	,		
Calculator	4	,	
Billing		4	
Comptometer			
Electromatic typewriter			1
Filing	3	_	
Dictaphone operation		1	
Advertising and Salesmanship		4	
Secretarial Practice		T	
More drill in typing figures	2	١.	
Commercial Law*		4	
Personality Development	1		7
Occupations	2		1
Spelling and vocabulary	3		

- 1. Graduates listed in this column had work in the subject listed and either desired more or were advised not to continue.
- 2. Graduates listed in this column had the opportunity to take the subject and did not.
- 3. Subject or equipment not available.

^{*}Commercial Law was dropped from the curriculum in 1944 because of lack of sufficient enrolment.

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Academic

Mathematics	1
Science	2
Biology	1
Chemistry	3
Spanish	1
Physics	1
Algebra	2
French	2
Latin	2

In the list above, two of the three who wished they had taken chemistry are now working in doctors' offices. One of the two who wished she had taken French is working in an office where many of the customers are French-speaking people. Thus the need for training in these fields did not become evident until after the graduate secured her job. This might well be true in the other cases also.

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Results of Employer Questionnaires and Interviews

"The operation of the schools is undoubtedly the largest and most important business in the world. Today's pupils are tomorrow's leaders of industry, education, and science. They are also tomorrow's failures."

The establishment of a close relationship between schools and industry can help prevent some of the failures. A report from the business men, regarding the progress of a graduate on his first job, will help indicate whether the training has been satisfactory. A report or interview with the business men can give the schools first-hand knowledge of what is expected of a beginner and also of any deficiency there may be in the curriculum.

With this in mind the writer sent letters and questionnaires and sought interviews with the employers of the graduates. There were 41 different employers: 34 employed 1 graduate each; 3 employed 4 each; 3, 2 each; and 1 employed 49. In addition 4 graduates were in business for themselves. All the employers interviewed gave very generously of their time and expressed gratification that an opportunity was being given them to make suggestions and recommendations. Several business men preferred to

¹F. W. Michel, "Responsibility of the Business Man," The American Business Education Yearbook, IV (1947), pp. 115-8.

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fill in the questionnaires and mail them, and eight of the forty-five employers were out of town. However, in all cases but one the blank was completed adequately with very extensive comments. Only one employer refused to rate his two workers, limiting his comments to saying they were willing and cooperative.

It might be well to sketch in briefly the interview the writer had with the personnel manager of the firm employing 49 of the graduates who returned the questionnaires. The personnel manager and his assistant spent about an hour discussing the graduates from personal knowledge of their work, ability, skills, and personality. A very complete record card is kept of each worker by his immediate supervisor, and these were referred to and shown to the writer. As none of the graduates under discussion worked directly for the personnel manager, his criticism dealt chiefly with personality traits. He felt there was a lack in a number of cases in poise and clarity on the telephone and in the ability to respond adequately when confronted with problems over the phone. He also spoke of the need of instilling in young workers a willingness to do "office housekeeping" -- which many of them seem to feel is beneath them, as he put it, or do not see the need of such activities. It is his practice to give a short piece of rough draft copy to a prospective

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office employee and ask to have it typed as accurately and as quickly as possible. In too many cases poor work resulted because of nervousness and lack of self-confidence. He felt that the school could do something to prepare the young workers for situations of this kind. Naming two or three of the graduates who are superior workers in all respects, especially in stenography, he said that the school had not trained workers like them in the last two or three years. The workers referred to were in the upper third of their classes and were pupils who had been able because of ability and scheduling to take College Preparatory English and other academic subjects simultaneously with their business subjects. (See page 16) Several other employers made the same statement about their employers. In every case the employees referred to were in the same classification as those mentioned here.

As an added check, the personnel manager had completed questionnaires on twenty-five of the workers sent to the writer. These workers were employed in the following capacities:

Typists Cost clerks Time keepers Stock record clerks Receptionist Stenographers Key punch operators (IBM) Payroll clerk

Tool order clerks Clerical workers Billing machine operator Stock chaser File clerk Bookkeeper

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Table VI shows the results of their ratings by immediate supervisors. It will be noted that none were rated "poor," nor were any "dismissed." This does not necessarily mean that certain individuals might not have been weak or poor in certain activities. It means, in most cases, preliminary screening by the personnel department of the firm. In other cases it could have been the result of the abnormal conditions of the years of the survey. The firm did war work and like many industries in similar circumstances employed workers of a caliber that they would not have tolerated in normal times.

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TABLE VIII

Ratings of 25 Workers by Supervisors

	Superi	or F Good			ismissed
Ability to follow directions Ability to accomplish work rapidly and accurately Amount of work accomplished Accuracy in typing " " spelling " " punctuation " " simple mathematics Ability to learn new work " " type mailable letters " " acceptable carbons " " acceptable carbons " " make good corrections Courtesy in meeting public Poise and clarity on telephone	7 646662545546	15 16 18 7 5 3 10 16 3 4 6 10 15	3 320000400004	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Neatness in dress and person Ability to take criticism and profit from it	9	15	1 2	0	0
Ability to work without super- vision Interest in work and business Ability to get along with	58	14 16	6	0	0
fellow workers Poise and self-control at work Attendance record	12 10 19	13 15 5	0 0 1	0 0 0	0

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TABLE IX

Results Obtained from Other Employers

	Superi	or F Good			ismissed
Ability to Follow directions Ability to accomplish work	11	10	2	0	0
accurately and rapidly Amount of work accomplished Accuracy in typing " " punctuation " spelling " simple mathematics Ability to learn new work " " type mailable letters " " acceptable carbons Courtesy in meeting public Poise and clarity on telephone Neatness in dress and person	10 10 10 10 9 9 12 13 9	11 10 10 10 10 11 11 8 8 11 8	323442222152	00001110001111	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Ability to make good corrections in typed material	11	10	3	0	0
Ability to work without super- vision Ability to take criticism and	7	13	3	0	0
profit from it Interest in work and business Ability to get along with fellow	7	12	1 3	1 0	0
workers Poise and self-control at work Attendance record	10 7 15	12 12 7	1 4 1	0 1 0	0 0

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To supplement the evaluation (Table IX) the business men made of their employees, the following additional criticisms, comments, and recommendations were made:

"... The school might emphasize the importance of what one is doing and why. Many times our new stenographers in a law office type nonsense and do not bother to ask whether it sounds right or is understandable. . . . A little more intellectual curiosity would help."

"Teach the importance of taking responsibility."

"More office experience in actual procedure would be desirable."

"Need for greater skill in simple mathematics." (Three added this criticism.)

"At first she showed lack of poise in meeting public but improved."

"This girl was a better-than-average worker, especially at her major task of receptionist. Apparently the school did a very good job in training her."

"Very fine and dependable employees.
"Some training on the comptometer would be helpful."

"An excellent employee. As individuals we can't have everything; however, her poise could have been improved, we feel."

"More work in spelling and punctuation."

"Turn out more like her." (Five added this.)

"At first had poor telephone technique." (In effect this criticism was made by several other employers.)

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"Tore out one like her." (live added this.)

"It first her more telephone telephone telephone telephone of the line activity of the made by several other acceptance.")

Only one business man expressed himself as dissatisfied with the speed and accuracy of his employees in typing. It will be noted, however, that there seems to be evidence that the school might profitably spend more time on personality development with special emphasis on training in meeting the public, telephone technique, and the importance of assuming responsibility. "In almost all surveys of this kind both employers and employees agree that there should be greater emphasis on the fundamentals of arithmetic and spelling."1 This survey was no exception. Several employers did emphasize those points. The graduates themselves, however, failed to recognize the need of additional training in this field. (Table VII, page 33) One graduate in a personal letter attached to her questionnaire did make a strong plea for a review of fundamentals of arithmetic in the senior year.

¹J. Frank Dame and others. <u>Prognosis, Guidance</u>, and <u>Placement in Business Education</u>, p. 201.

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CHAPTER IV

Conclusions

The two major objectives of this study were to try to ascertain

- 1. Whether the business curriculum at Laconia High School has been meeting the needs of business and
- 2. Whether the graduates are using the skills and abilities the school tried to develop.

The results of the questionnaires and interviews from the employers of the graduates indicate that on the whole beginning workers are meeting their needs and that the business curriculum is adequate for training beginning workers in subject skills and abilities. Many employers felt, however, that additional emphasis would be desirable in certain phases of the training; for example, in the technique of handling calls and callers. The importance of desirable work habits and attitudes and the developing of the ability to assume responsibility needs to be instilled in young workers by constant discussion, example, and practice. Several employers hoped the school would continue to turn out beginning workers as efficient as the ones they were now employing.

Conclus ons

The two rates objectives of this they were to

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A comparison between the units of work outlined for the business courses and the various office activities that the graduates perform indicates that the skills and abilities developed are being used, but that more training should be given in simple mathematics and on machines used in connection with mathematical processes.

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Recommendations

From the results of this survey, the writer feels justified in making the following recommendations:

- 1. That a course in personality development should be taught. Pupils should be shown how to dress, care for their hands and nails, dress their hair to suit their type, sit, walk, and stand correctly, meet people, introduce people, and talk over the telephone. Discussion and reading assignments alone can not adequately educate in this phase of activity.
- 2. That actual telephone equipment be acquired. Inasmuch as using the telephone is a major activity for such a large proportion of beginning workers in the community, a strong effort should be made to procure at least two telephones with batteries. With actual equipment real situations could be set up. Skill and ease could be acquired through frequent use and practice and remedial work.
- 3. That additional calculating machines are needed. The present equipment of machines used in connection with mathematical processes is wholly inadequate for proper instruction and practice.
- 4. That rearrangement of parts of the schedule is necessary. The schedule should be arranged in the manner in which it has been in the past so that pupils with sufficient ability could elect College Preparatory English and Secretarial Practice simultaneously.
- 5. That pupils be placed in courses compatible with their aptitudes and interests. Pupils are happier and do better work if they are taking subjects for which they have an aptitude. For their future well-being pupils should be helped and guided into the field where their interests, aptitudes, and past performance indicate they can expect some success.

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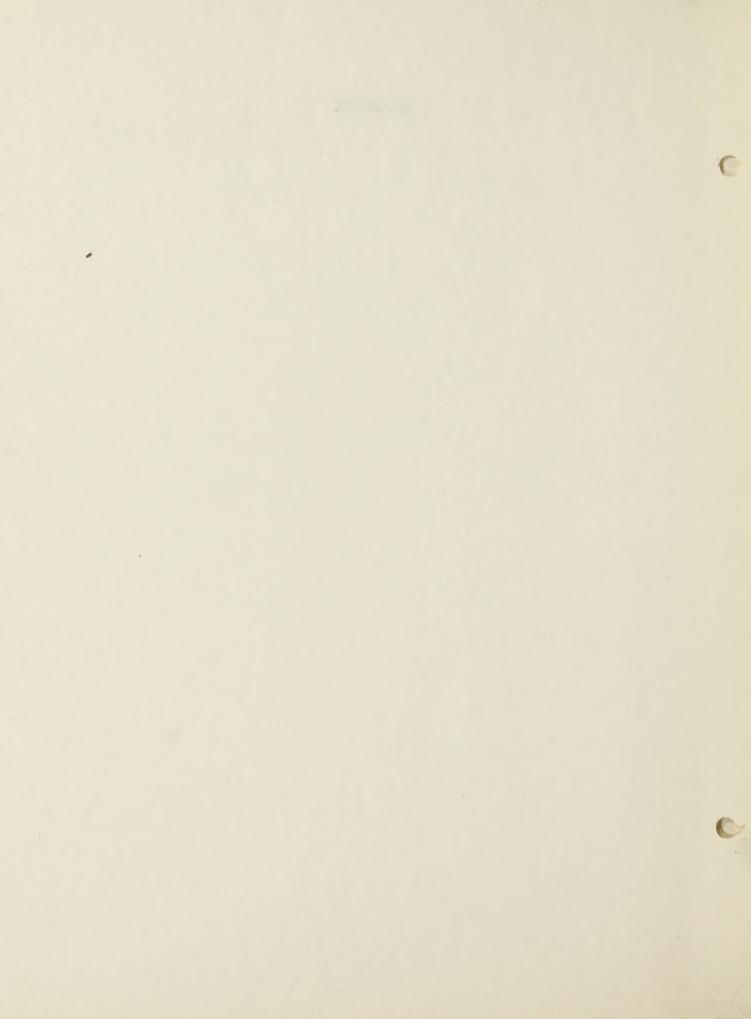
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APPENDIX



Form G 51

Laconia High School Laconia, New Hampshire September 18, 1947

In order to find out whether Laconia High School in its business classes is training beginning workers in the skills and abilities you want, I am making a 5-year survey of the pupils who were graduated in the years 1942 through June, 1946. In your employ you have some of these graduates. To ascertain whether we are really meeting the needs of business, I believe it is necessary to get a report on each individual. I should like to discuss with you certain skills, abilities, and personality traits that you believe necessary for a successful worker. If you are not the person I should see, would you put me in touch with the person in your business who could tell me of the work of the high school graduates you have? Any information you give me will be confidential and will be used only in a general report.

The enclosed questionnaire indicates the kind of things I should like to discuss with you about .

I should appreciate it very much if it would be possible for you to give me some time within the next two weeks.

Yours truly,

Ernestine McCrillis

LM: MH

Sample of self-addressed government card sent with letter to local business men. (page 51)

Dear Miss McCrillis:	
I am willing to give you an interview at	
on1947.	
Signed	
Company	

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1946-1947 LACONIA HIGH SCHOOL-SUBJECT OFFERING

Grade IX Freshmen (0 to 2 units) Elect 4 units only *Subjects most frequently used for *College Entrance Credit.*

Required

1. IX English - Civic or *College Preparatory *(State Which)

2. IX *ALCYVRA*, IX GENERAL MATHEMATICS, OR IX JR. BUSINESS TRAINING (State 3. IX CIVICS or IX HISTORY of CIVILIZATION* (State which) which)

Select ONE of the following:

4. IX Textiles & Clothing, IX Shop, IX *Biology*, IX *French*, *LX Latin*, IX *Spanish*

		,
Grade X Sophomores (3 to 6 units)	Periods per week	Units
X ENGLISH civic or *College Preparatory*	5	1
X *Modern History* or X Geography	5	1
	5	1
II *Algebra* or II *Geometry*	5	1
I or II *Latin*	5	1
I or II *French*	5	1
I or II *Spanish*	5	1
X Shop	10	1
X Foods and Nutrition	7	1
	5	1
X Advertising and Sales anship	5	東上
I Typing	5	12
I Bookkeeping	5	1
I Stenography	50	1
X Art	10	1
	I or II *French* I or II *Spanish* X Shop X Foods and Nutrition X Consumer Education X Advertising and Sales: anship I Typing I Bookkeeping I Stenography	X #Modern History* or X Geography 5 X *Music Appreciation* 5 II *Algebra* or II *Geometry* 5 I or II *Latin* 5 I or II *Spanish* 5 X Shop 10 X Foods and Nutrition 7 X Consumer Education 5 I Typing 5 I Stenography 10

	Grade XII SENIORS (11 or more Uni	
Pds. per wk. Units	Pds. per wk. U	nits
XI ENGLISH civic or *C.P* 5 1	XII ENGLISH Civic or *C.P.* 5	1
I, II or III *French* 5 1	II or III *French* 5	1
I.II or III *Latin* 5 1	II or III *Latin* 5	1
I, II or III *French* 5 1 I, II or III *Labin* 5 1 I, II or III *Spanish* 5 1	II or III *Spanish* 5	1
XI American Hist, Civ.only 5 1	XII Amer. Hist. Civic or C.P. 5	1
II *Geometry* or II *Alg.* 5 1	XII *Solid Geometry and Trig. * 5	1
XI Provins* 7 1	XII *Chemistry* 7	1
XI Aeronautics or Sci.Sur. 5 1	XII Sociology 5	1
XI Home and Its Care 5 1	XII The Family 5	1
I or II Stenography (Gregg) 10 1	XII Secretarial Practice 10	1
I or II Stenography (Thomas) 10 1	XII Clerical Practice 10	1
XI Clerical Practice 10 1	I, II or III Typewriting 5	1 2
I or II Typewriting 5 1	XI Mechanical Drawing 10	ĩ
	or Printing 10	1
#XI Journalism or XI Dramatics 5 1	Cabinet Making 10	1
XI Shop-Any "shop" listed	Sheet Metal 10	1
for Seniors 10 1	XII Machine Operation 10	1
	not be continued for a second year.	

SEEK ADVICE ESPECIALLY FROM YOUR TEACHERS.

ALL Stenography and Office Practice pupils should ask the advice of the Commercial teachers. Once a choice is made it is very important that the correct year and title be given.

#Pupils electing Journalism or Dramatics should see Miss Kendrick or Miss Smith and get approval written on the reverse of the elective blank.

All non-college prep juniors should take American History.

Orado IX Frashmen (O to 2 units) Llect 4 units only "Endits only "Endits Credit."

Bon Lugor 1. IX English - Civic or *College Proparatory *(State Vhich)
2. IX *ALTIVAL*, IX GANARAL LAFRALATION, OR IX SR. BUSINESS TRAINING (State
3. IX CIVIOS or IX *HOTOR of CIVIALATION* (State which)
Solect ONE of the followings

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		Cabinet Laking	WI Journalia, or XI Branches 5 L
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I	O.E.		for Seniors 10.1
7.	y car .	buccos a rol bounithoo od for	XI & XII Shop subjects May

SEAN JOVICE SEPROLIDAY FROM YOUR TEACHERS.

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Machine Operation*

	Number	Per Cent
Switchboard (PBX) Teletypewriter Teleprinter Tabulator Keypunch Machines in doctors' offices Cash register Comptometer Posting	2 1 2 2 2 2 2 3 2	.018 .009 .009 .018 .018 .018 .028

^{*}Operation of machines other than those listed on questionnaires sent out; 106 returns.

Machine Oncertifons

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	inguindi bendines in doctors' offices dash register Corntonator In file

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Typing Activities*

	Number	Per Cent
Time sheets Travel orders Minutes of meetings Manuscripts Government bonds Account cards Checks Medical reports Labels Insurance policies Requisitions Operation sheets Orders Quotations Miscellaneous Naval correspondence Forms (leases, contracts, mortgages, wills, etc.)	12211221221	.009 .018 .018 .009 .009 .018 .018 .009 .018 .018 .009 .018
Telegrams	3 2	.018

^{*}Typing activities other than those listed on the questionnaire.

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^{*}Typing setivities other than those listed on the

1946-LACONIA HIGH SCHOOL-SUBJECT OFFERING-1947

- 1. All pupils must elect a minimum of 4 units of work. First year pupils may take only 4.
- 2. Any pupil electing over 4 units takes that program on a trial basis and may be returned to a normal, 4 unit, program at ANY time.
- 3. 16 UNITS are required for GRADUATION, 11 to be classified as a Senior, 7 to be a Junion, and 7 to be a Sophomore. Pupils with less than 3 units are classified as Freshmen.
- 4. A pupil may take a subject of the class below him only if such selection is approved. He may not elect above his class except in continuous subjects.
- 5. But one Mechanic Arts ("Shop") subject may be taken in a given year. Not over 4 units in Mechanic Arts may be offered for graduation credit.
- 6. Should the election of a subject be light the school reserves the right to cancel the class in that subject for the year.
- 7. But ONE FOREIGN LANGUAGE may be STARTED during a school year.
- 8. A second year of a foreign language must be passed to retain credit for the first year.
- 9. EMGLISH will be required of EVERY PUPIL regardless of the credit standing of the pupil.
- 10. But one class of English is permitted excepting for SENIORS--and then, ON TRIAL OFLY.
- 11. COLLEGE PREPARATORY ENGLISH is intended for qualified pupils who are preparing for college and for other pupils ABLE and WILLING to do exacting work in fundamentals, composition, and literature.
- 12. CIVIC ENGLISH is planned for those pupils who are not preparing to attend college after high school graduation. It is NOT FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE.
- 13. CCLLEGE PREPARATION. Laconia High School prepares "Able and "filling" pupils for any college in America in four years and with but rour subjects each year. Though college entrance requirements vary according to the courses to be studied college entrance usually depends upon the pupil's proving by his educational record, examinations, and reputation that he has done better than average work in Jollege Freparatory Subjects and that he is worthy and ready to meet still greater competition in more advanced fields of study. (A penny postal card to the Registrar will bring the pupil a catalogue and application blank of any college. The school library has many college catalogues). From our twenty five definitely designated college preparatory subjects may be selected subjects to meet the demands of any college and the individual needs of the pupil for that college.
- -14. NURSING. A few hospitals will accept a high school graduate with but one year of mathematics and one of science. Many require more. NONE, to our knowledge, REQUIRE Latin. (Send for a catalogue from several or even many hospitals).
- 15. TRADE, VOCATIONAL, and COMMERCIAL schools are looking for the best pupils they can get and select those with best preparation. Mathematics is apt to be required by the better schools in these fields. (Send to them for catalogues).

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 - 2. Any orpi) charters ever the anist there are the tropied on a trial boots and a
 - 3. 16 exitt was a quiend for Galderion, il to be obselfied as a Senior. 7 to be a finite with less than 3 units are clausiff of a freshmen.
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ACCO PRODUCTS, INC.

